

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2, 6-13, 16-18, 27 and 28-30 are pending, upon entry of the amendment submitted above. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Applicants would like to thank Examiner Nguyen for the helpful and courteous discussion held with their representative on December 14, 2005. During the discussion, Applicants' representative explained that an important feature of the claimed process is that the sulfur content of the hydrocarbon mixture is decreased satisfactorily and olefin hydrogenation is inhibited. The following remarks expand on the discussion with the Examiner.

Hydrocarbon mixtures are used as blending components of gasoline. These compounds are required to have a high octane number and a low sulfur content. See the paragraph bridging pages 1 and 2 of the specification.

Olefins are desirable components of such hydrocarbons because they have a high octane number. However, the known catalytic processes for desulfurizing hydrocarbon mixtures also result in a high degree of hydrogenation of the olefins to paraffins (i.e., hydrocarbons which lack the carbon-carbon double bonds present in olefins). This is highly undesirable because the paraffins have a lower octane number as compared to the olefins. See page 2 of the specification.

The Inventors of the present application have solved this problem and developed a catalytic process in which the sulfur content of the hydrocarbon mixture is decreased satisfactorily and inhibits hydrogenation of the olefins present in the hydrocarbon mixture.

DO NOT ENTER

TN